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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04
COME-00 AF-10 /093 W
----------120903 282022Z /65
R 281725Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1193
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGERIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 5666

USEEC ALSO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH PARTIES ANNOUNCE THEIR PROGRAMS IN CORTES DEBATE

SUMMARY: THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE SPANISH CORTES (PARLIAMENT) DEDICATED 27 JULY TO THE EXPRESSION BY PARTY LEADERS OF THEIR INTENTIONS AND PROGRAMS. ALL PARTIES AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A NEW DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION. SOCIALIST (PSOE) SPOKESMAN FELIPE GONZALEZ SCORED WELL WITH WHAT AMOUNTED TO VIRTUALLY AN ALTERNATE PROGRAM OF GOVT. THE COMMUNISTS'
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SANTIAGO CARRILLO PREDICTABLY CALLED FOR A GOVT OF NATIONAL UNITY. POPULAR ALLIANCE (AP) LEADER FRAGA SAID THE RIGHT THINGS, BUT GOT THE WRONG HEADLINE. POPULAR SOCIALIST (PSP) LEADER TIERNO GALVAN IMPRESSED SCARCELY ANYONE WHILE BORING THE HOUSE WITH A PROFESSORIAL HOUR OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. THREE REGIONAL SPOKESMEN NATURALLY STRESSED THE AUTONOMY ISSUE. WRAPPING UP FOR THE GOVT, UCD SPOKES-

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MAN CALVO SOTELO GRACEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE ROLES PLAYED BY ALL THE PARTIES IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND PLEDGED THE GOVT TO THREE IMMEDIATE GOALS: A NEW CONSTITUTION, ACHIEVED BY CONSENSUS; ECONOMIC MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT CRISIS; AND ACHIEVEMENT OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY. END SUMMARY.

1. PSOE SECGEN GONZALEZ SPOKE FIRST, DEFINING THREE BASIC OBJECTIVES: LIQUIDATION OF THE REMNANTS OF AUTOCRACY, A NEW CONSTITUTION, AND ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. ADDRESSING EACH IN TURN, HE:

-- ADVOCATED A COMPLETE AMNESTY, TO INCLUDE LABOR OFFENSES; FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION FOR ALL POLITICAL GROUPS; EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR; REPEAL OF REMAINING "REPRESSIVE" LEGISLATION, SUCH AS THE LAWS ON ASSOCIATION, PRESS, PUBLIC ORDER, OFFICIAL SECRETS, ETC., AND MODIFICATION OF THE PENAL CODE.

-- CALLED FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION, TO BE DRAFTED BY A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL GROUPS; THIS CONSTITUTION SHOULD CONTAIN A STATUTE OF BASIC LIBERTIES (TO INCLUDE FREEDOM TO JOIN A UNION, AND THE VOTE AT AGE 18), A PROVISION FOR REGIONAL AUTONOMY, A STRUCTURING OF THE PUBLIC POWERS TO LIMIT THE EXECUTIVE, AND A COURT OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES. WHILE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOPIC OF DEMOCRATIC REFORMS, HE ALSO URGED IMMEDIATE ADOPTION OF AN ELECTORAL LAW FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES, AND DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF THE GOVT'S MEANS OF MASS COMMUNICATION (THE RADIO AND TELEVISION SYSTEM), AND INFORMATION AGENCIES).

-- CRITICIZED THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM AS DEPENDING ON TWO MEASURES (FREEZING SALARIES AND RESTRICTIVE MONETARY POLICY) WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE WEIGHT WOULD FALL ON THE WORKERS AND THE SMALL-TO-MEDIUM BUSINESSES. HE APPROVED THE GOVT'S PROPOSALS TO REFORM TAXATION AND FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT, PLEDGING SOCIALIST SUPPORT ESPECIALLY TO THE LATTER.

-- CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR A NEW LAW ON UNION ACTIVITY, AND BREIFLY RECONTED THE PSOE'S ESTABLISHED FOREIGN POLICY LINE OF "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY" WITHIN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT.

2. COMMUNIST (PCE) SECGEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO,

-- ONCE AGAIN CALLED FOR A GOVT OF "NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONCENTRATION" TO DEAL WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

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-- DECLARED THAT THE PCE COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH SACRIFICES AS THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC PLAN WOULD IMPOSE; EVEN IF THE PLAN WERE NOT FAULTY, NO GOVT LACKING WORKER PRESENCE AND CONFIDENCE COULD CARRY PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES.

-- IN CONCLUSION, REFERRED TO THE PCE'S FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH SUPPORTS SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE EEC AND A REVISION OF SPAIN'S MOROCCAN/SAHARA POLICY AIMED AT BETTER RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA.

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3. POPULAR ALLIANCE (AP) LEADER FRAGA IRIBARNE GAVE A MODERATELY CONSERVATIVE TWIST TO THE MAJOR ISSUES, REFERRING IN PARTICULAR TO THE NEED TO RESTORE BUSINESS CONFIDENCE AS PART OF ANY ECONOMIC PROGRAM. HIS REMARKS WERE OTHERWISE UNEXCEPTIONABLE, BUT INCLUDED A REFERENCE TO "LOYALTY TO THE PAST", FOR WHICH MANY WILL READ "FRANCOISM", AND EARLY PRESS

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REACTION STRESSES THIS REFERENCE.

4. TIERNO GALVAN, OF THE POPULAR SOCIALISTS (PSP), HELD
FORTH AT LENGTH, WARNED AGAINST A NEW CONSTITUTION DICTATED
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BY THE GOVT, AND ADVOCATED REGIONAL AUTONOMY. HE CRITICIZED
THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM, BUT SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF TAX
REFORM. ON REGIONALISM, HE PROPOSED CREATION OF A FUND FOR
COMPENSATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS REGIONS, IN ORDER TO HELP
THE NEEDY. (COMMENT - THIS ADDRESSES A REAL PROBLEM.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE TWO REGIONS MOST EAGER FOR AUTONOMY ARE
THE RICHEST IN SPAIN, ALREADY CONTRIBUTE HEAVILY TO THE
POORER REGIONS THROUGH TAXATION, AND IN MANY CASES HOPE
THAT AUTONOMY WILL MEAN A LIGHTENING OF THIS BURDEN.)

5. THREE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF REGIONALIST PARTIES SPOKE:

-- JORDI PUJOL (CATALAN CENTER-LEFT PDC) CENTERED HIS
REMARKS ON THE NEED TO PROMPTLY RESTORE CATALAN AUTONOMY
UNDER THE STATUTE OF 1932. HE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE
GOVT MIGHT BE LEANING TOWARDS A "SOPHISTICATED UNIFORMITY",
THROUGH A NEW NATIONAL AUTONOMY LAW THAT WOULD NOT GIVE
PROPER RECOGNITION TO CATALUNYA, BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
THAT THE NEW CORTES WOULD BE THE INSTRUMENT FOR ACHIEVING
"FULL RECOGNITION OF THE COLLECTIVE PERSONALITY OF THE
DIVERSE REGIONS OF SPAIN," AND THUS OF "REAL SOLIDARITY"
BASED ON FREE WILL.

-- XABIER ARZALLUZ (BASQUE PNV) STUCK VERY CLOSE TO PUJOL'S
LINE, ADDING EMPHASIS ON TOTAL AMNESTY AND LEGALIZATION
OF ALL PARTIES. LIKE PUJOL, HE REFERRED TO THE "SOLIDARITY"
OF SPAIN: ONLY AFTER REGIONAL AUTONOMY IS ACHIEVED WILL
A STATE "HARMONIOUSLY INTEGRATED" BE ACHIEVABLE.

-- JOAN RAVENTOS (SPOKESMAN FOR THE CATALAN PSC-PSOE) DID
NO CONFINE HIMSELF TO THE AUTONOMY ISSUE (ALTHOUGH HE
COVERED IT), BUT VIRTUALLY RETRACED THE MAJOR POINTS OF
GONZALEZ' SPEECH, HITTING PARTICULARLY HARD AT THE "REMANTS
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OF AUTOCRACY" AND THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC PLAN.

6. LEOPOLDO CALVO SOTELO (UCD CONGRESS LEADER) BEGAN BY
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN
COMPLETED WITHOUT THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES,

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PRAISED THE VALUES OF PLURALISM, AND EXPRESSED ACCEPTANCE
AND RESPECT FOR DIFFERENT POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW. ON
THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE POINTS, HE:

-- CALLED FOR A CONSTITUTION THAT REPRESENTS A CONSENSUS
OF ALL THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES, AND GUARANTEES A STANDARD
OF LIBERTY SUBJECT ONLY TO RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION
ITSELF.

-- PLEDGED TO FIGHT INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE
PAYMENTS DEFICIT. HE TERMED TAX REFORM "THE HEART"
OF THE GOVT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

-- CALLED FOR DRAFTING OF A LAW WHICH "DEVELOPS THE
CONSTITUTIONAL PRECEPTS" FOR AUTONOMY.

-- EXPRESSED PLEASURE, IN CONCLUSION, AT THE HIGH DEGREE
OF AGREEMENT EXPRESSED, WHICH IN HIS JUDGMENT AUGURED WELL
FOR THE DEBATES TO COME.

7. COMMENT: THE SUAREZ GOVT IS CLEARLY ENJOYING ITS
HONEYMOON. "YA" POLITICAL COLUMNIST LUIS APOSTUA (RECENTLY
ELECTED A UCD DEPUTY TO THE CORTES) CALLED IT "THE DAY
OF THE FLOWERS", AND PROPOSED AS MOTTO FOR THE NEW CORTES,
"NOBODY MORE MODERATE THAN I." THE SUBSTANTIAL APPARENT
CONSENSUS ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND ON REGIONAL AUTONOMY
IS INDEED CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION, EVEN IF DETERMINED
STRUGGLES--AT LEAST--AWAIT US ON THE SPECIFICS. ON THE
ECONOMIC PROGRAM, HOWEVER, YESTERDAY'S STATEMENTS MERELY
UNDERSCORED THE DEEP DIVISIONS -- YET IT IS PRECISELY IN
THIS AREA THAT THE GOVT WILL MOST NEED SOCIALIST AND
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1719317
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH PARTIES ANNOUNCE THEIR PROGRAMS IN CORTES DEBATE SUMMARY: THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE SPANISH CORTES (PARLIAMENT) DEDICATED 27 JULY TO THE EXPRES SION BY PARTY LEADE
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2eec8662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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